

09/672,635

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REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 8, 14, 15, 18, and 24 have been cancelled herein and independent claims 1, 5, and 21 have been amended to include limitations of allowable claims 8 and 24. Accordingly, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11-13, 16, 17, 19, 23, and 25 have also been amended herein.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 21-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Prince (US 5,617,113). Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons. Independent claims 1, 5, and 21 have been amended to include limitations of allowable claims 8 and 24. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 5, and 21 (and all claims that depend therefrom) should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 7, 14, and 23 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 7, 14, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Prince in view of Muhich, *et al.* (4,706,074). These claims depend upon claims 5 and 21, which have been amended herein to include subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

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CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063[ALBRP200US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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